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1-438

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Daniel O. Jones, et al.
Serial No.: 09/773,704
Filed: January 31, 2001
For: Technique and Apparatus to
Control the Response of a Fuel
Cell System to Load Transients

§ Group Art Unit: 1745
§
§ Examiner: Raymond Alejandro
§
§ Atty. Dkt. No.: PUG.0056US
§ (734)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

Dear Sir:

Please cancel claims 9-18 without prejudice and rewrite claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method usable with a fuel cell stack, comprising:

providing a fuel flow to the fuel cell stack to produce power, at least some of the power being consumed by a first load;

in response to a decrease in at least one of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and the power consumed by the first load, determining whether to route at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load to a second load; and

based on the determination, selectively routing said at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load to the second load.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the routing occurs until the fuel flow

is decreased to a level at which the power routed to the second load is approximately zero.

Date of Deposit: December 20, 2002
I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Debra Cutrona

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